

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SLW08454: WILDLIFE WOODCARVING IN RELIEF

Tutor: ALEX JONES

Dates: LONG WEEKEND THURSDAY 17 JANUARY – SUNDAY 20 JANUARY

### ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

The aim of this course is to start exploring the craft of wood carving and its potential to depict the natural world all around us. Carving in relief is a great way to explore the beauty and vibrancy of nature, both flora and fauna can be effectively brought to life in this natural medium.

You will start on the first day by shaping your panel with a chisel and a mallet, getting a feel for the tools and enjoying the process of pairing back the block to your desired shape. Then you will be able to choose a subject from nature that interests you most. Having turned your subject into a design you will then transpose it on to lime wood and be taught how to realise it in relief.

The safe use of wood carving chisels, both with the mallet and carving by hand will be an important part of your course and will be introduced. You need to be prepared for the physicality of carving and it requires standing for much of the time.

You will be carving in a pre-cut band sawed piece of lime wood to speed up the process and allow for a quick application of the woodcarving tools and the creation of form.

Towards the end of the course you will also learn how to seal and finish your finished piece of carving. This can be left in the natural wood or painted in any colours you choose – your tutor will direct you in the best approach if you decide to continue with the piece after the course.

The aim of the course is to offer the confidence to be able to plan and design further shallow relief carving projects and be in the perfect position to develop your new or enhanced skills further.

### LEVEL: BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

For those with little or no experience and for those who have taken a related course. Suited to those who would like a structured introduction to a subject, with further building of skills to work towards independent practice.

### ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Alex Jones learnt his craft at City & Guilds Art College and in a traditional studio before concentrating on commissions. His work can be seen at Durrell Wildlife Park, Jersey and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall. He has many pieces in private collections worldwide and has appeared on the *BBC's Spring Watch* and as a featured artist on the TV programme *Flog it!* His work is driven by the influence fine wood carving and scale can have on a subject. Ugly can become beautiful and common, exotic.

### TIMETABLE:

#### Arrival day: Thursday 17 January

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b>

**Other days: Friday 18 and Saturday 19 January**

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

**Departure day: Sunday 20 January**

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish, please vacate workshop by 3.30pm
3.30pm	Tea then departure

**REQUIRED PREPARATION:**

Source some ideas, photographs or sketches which you may like to work from, on theme of plants or wildlife.

**MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:**

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

**Materials included in the course fee:**

The course fee includes sketch and tracing paper to work out your design and a piece of limewood.

**Available from the Shop:**

Lime wood (if you require an additional piece)

Graphite pencils/rubber/pencil sharpener

**Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:**

Clothing and footwear suitable for the workshop (*open sandals must not be worn in the workshop*)

Ideas/designs/starting points

Please Note: The College provides carving tools for the course but you may bring any carving tools (chisels, mallets, gouges) you already have (*please mark any tools you bring to the course with your name*).

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.